The Lions' Pride

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Saint Leo is Military Friendly

By Victoria Calvillo
Contributing Writer

Saint Leo University has been recognized as one of the 2018 Top Military Friendly Online Colleges and ranked No. 16 on the list of 2018 Most Affordable Military Friendly Online Colleges.

Saint Leo has a long history supporting the military.

"We at Saint Leo started working with educating military [workers] and military family members back in 1973, so we have a very proud history of working with military and supporting their educational needs," commented Pamela Martis, Associate Vice President of Military Affairs and Services.

Martis added that the University has many staff who have a military background. These include director of military services, who is a retired Master Sergeant Air Force, student veterans who work in Saint Leo offices to name a few. Martis herself has a military background, being retired Army Colonel.

The list of Top Military Friendly Online Colleges consists of 60 online colleges who meet the SR Education Group requirements.

"These accredited schools provide strong military communities and support networks for their online students as well as exceptional financial assistance and flexibility," states Guide to Online Schools, which is where this list can be found.

Martis mentioned that Saint Leo currently has online centers in over seven states and that Saint Leo was one of the first universities in 1997 that began support for military affiliated and active military online education. She says there is an estimated 4,800 to 5,000 military students currently attending the university's online centers.

Military flags were hung during the 2017 Veterans Day Ceremony in honor of those who are serving and have served for their country.

These numbers include student veterans, active military and Government Issued Bill benefit users, which occasionally includes military spouses or other military family members. Military members earn a G.I. Bill through their service to their country which is used for educational benefits.

Saint Leo University's annual online tuition for military students is an estimate of $10,800, making the university a perfect candidate as the list was made up of colleges with online tuition rates under $12,270. Saint Leo also has a military scholarship program and military excellence fund. There are several targeted scholarships for military students, student veterans and military spouses.

Saint Leo also received a Military Friendly Score of 73.17; the score was calculated using the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs GI Bill Comparison Tool.

"We evaluate schools on four factors: military culture, online support, financial aid and flexibility. Schools that made the 2018 Top Military-Friendly Online Colleges list encompass all these factors that greatly benefit military students," explained Kelsey D'Ewart, SR Education Group Representative and online education research publisher. "SLU's commitment to these factors can help them be recognized by potential students as a great option to pursue their education."

D'Ewart also mentioned that there were over 500 schools researched when making the military friendly lists.

There are many military affiliated students, staff and faculty on campus creating an even stronger military community.

"Saint Leo is honored to support their military service members, their families and those who have served. It is considered an honor," commented Martis. "If you look at our core values here at Saint Leo, they align up really well with the core values of all of the military services. So, for many military students they look at Saint Leo and are drawn to those [core values] because it is a little bit of familiarity to the.

"Military students have the option to take an online course, evening classes, hybrid classes or an eight-week semester instead of a full 16-week

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Photos by John Hall

Eric Cox, student veteran, speaking at the 2017 Veterans Day Ceremony. Cox spoke about the similarities between Saint Leo's core values and the military's core values. He admitted the similarities allowed him to have a smoother transition from military life to civilian life.

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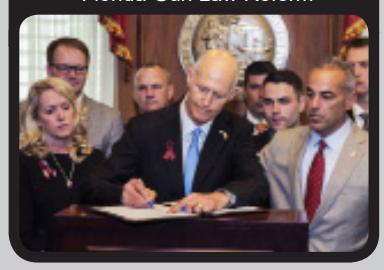

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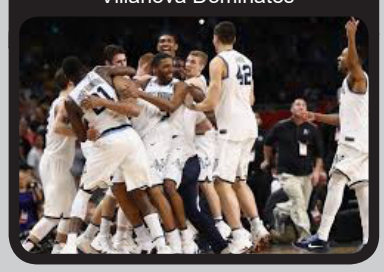
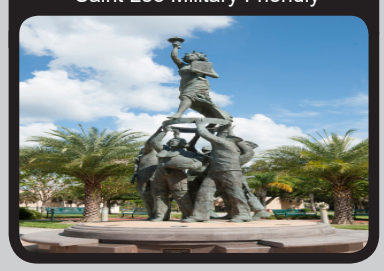


Saint Leo Military Friendly



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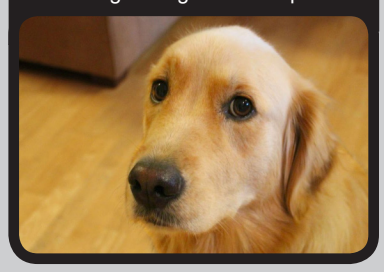

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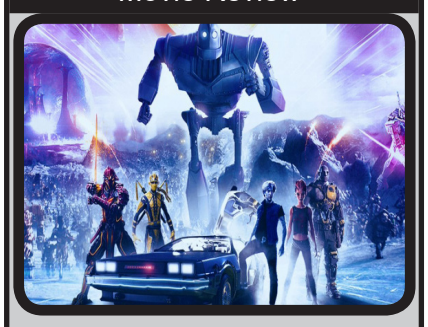

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Editorial

Dogs on Food Stamps?

Allison Cobb
Distribution Manager

Recently there has been a petition put up to extend food stamps to cover things such as dog food or cat food. So far, it has garnered lots of support, with 234,000 signatures on Care2. However, the petition has also sparked controversy. Millions of people are on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as SNAP or food stamps. This program allows for those with low income to buy nutritious food, and contrary to popular belief, it is a strict program that does not allow purchases outside of its guidelines. These restrictions include a controversial ban on buying pet food.

The petition on Care2 says, "I have only been on SNAP benefits for a few months, but I have been unable to feed my little dog due to government regulations [...] Being poor is hard enough without being expected to give up your companion. For most people, pets are considered family, not property."

Right now, SNAP benefits can be used for fruit and vegetables, meat, grains and dairy products. They cannot be used for junk food, alcohol, tobacco, household products or pet items; these restrictions are specifically outlined on the United States Department of Agriculture website.

There are many arguments for the petition and many against it. Although the chances of this passing are slim, with both our current government and the controversy that already exists about how food stamps work, it's an interesting subject to be broached. Most would agree that pets are a part of the family, and just because someone has come across financial hardship doesn't mean they should have to rehome their family member. The other side of the coin, however, is that aside from service animals, pets are not a necessity and people should not be getting pets they can't provide for.

A lot of conservatives view food stamps as a way of the taxpayer providing. With the heated arguments already existing about how welfare works, and some questioning if welfare should even exist, it's hard to approach the subject of expanding what food stamps should cover.

A positive argument for expanding food stamps to pet food is that it would drastically benefit animal welfare. When people don't have money for dog or cat food, they end up sharing their people food, which does not have the nutritional content needed for animals. If pet owners do not share their own food, they may end up not feeding their pets at all. In turn, people opt to give their pets up to shelters, a problem that's already so large it results in hundreds of thousands of dogs being put to sleep every single day. If people were able to get food stamps for their animals, it would put a dent in this issue, allowing more people to care for and keep their pets.

On the other hand, in the interest of animal welfare, if someone cannot afford even the food for their animal, how will they afford the other things many pets need? Vet visits, vaccinations, accidents, flea and heartworm medicine and enrichment are all expensive necessities. If someone can't afford to feed the animal, then they surely can't afford the rest of the things that come with it.

SNAP is a program with good intentions, already stretched thin by demands of the public and the constant criticism by taxpayers and government alike.

Financial hardship is something that can happen to anyone, and no one can tell them how exactly to manage their money, but when it comes to animal welfare, people have to keep in mind what's best for their pet.

Photo from Wikimedia Commons

The United States Department of Agriculture would have to approve the petition request to include pet food in the SNAP benefits.

Photo Courtesy of @RetrieverPics

Dogs are often emotional support for their owners and are seen as family members instead of pets. Some pets even have jobs, such as therapy dogs and personal service dogs.

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Campus News

Military Friendly Cont'd.

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semester when enrolling at a Saint Leo center. This flexibility helps military students as a large portion of them are older and also work full time jobs, and have a family to support," concluded Martis.

There is an hour of orientation when a military student begins at an online center in order to educate the new student about what resources are available to them such as the office of accessibility services, the library and the office of military services.

The office of accessibilities services is available to help student veterans who may need extra help coming out of the transition of military life to civilian life. They also assist with service related evaluations and or additional assistance from the veteran's affairs (V.A.).

Saint Leo also has student advisors and councelors that are familiar with the military who can assist in translating resumes and help military students reach out to campus who may need additional counseling concerning how to use their benefits properly.

There are school officials whose sole function is to help process military students' benefits through the federal government and V.A. in order to make it easier for the student veteran.

Professors are also made aware when they have active military students. This allows for an understanding if the student is deployed before they are able to finish their semester. Should this situation arise, Saint Leo would work with the V.A. for exceptions, so the military student wouldn't lose their benefits and have the option to retake the course at a later time.

Martis adds that Saint Leo University also holds pride in being one of the few universities in Florida that belong to Student Veterans of America Chapter. There are only 1,500 chapters across the United States and a couple overseas, Saint Leo University being the one-thousandth chapter. Every year Saint Leo takes about a dozen student veterans to the national conference in order to help them network with fellow student veterans.

This chapter is for military students, student veterans, military family members and ROTC cadets. The chapter is here to help provide support and has many resources available for members; there is no charge to join.

The University also has Omega Delta Sigma which is a co-ed club. There are dues to pay and the members who join must have served in the military and had an honorable discharge.

Saint Leo plans to continue growing their military resource centers, with a brand new one opening in Virginia next month. This resource center is going to be a place where student veterans and military students can gather for lounging, studying and additional school related resources.

Saint Leo University is a proud supporter of those serving in the military.

"Our President here at Saint Leo is a retired three-star Army general. So, his focus is to say we need to be supportive of all our students, but in particular the transition for someone who is coming out of the military back into a very unfamiliar environment," Martis added. "And to go back to school is sometimes a lot harder transition than if you were just a student coming from high school."

Saint Leo holds an annual Veterans Day ceremony, as well as other events, to show their support for their veteran students and staff as well as current active military members.

There are about 1,500 to 1,600 students on campus, and a full third of that population are military students.

Saint Leo University has many statues around campus in honor of important figures. The "For Those Who Serve" statue is in honor of those who have served or are currently serving in the military.

Photos by John Hall

National

Florida's New Gun Law Reforms

Anna Rackley &
Randawnique Coakley

Contributing Writer
Worldly News Editor & Managing Editor

Photo from @CNN

March for Our Lives protests were held March 24 in numerous states across the country and in many cities around the world, including Paris and London.

There was a March for Our Lives in Tampa and Orlando Saturday, March 24, 2018, for individuals to come together as a community for a common purpose to voice their opinions on what was going on in the country with gun reform.

The term "March for Our Lives" was started and organized by students of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School as a result of the mass shooting that happened in their school Feb. 14, 2018.

One of the people who attended the March for Our Lives in Tampa is Wakens Leonard, a sophomore, double majoring in criminal justice and psychology. He mentioned his experience at the march as well as the importance of it.

"March for Our Lives was an insightful experience, and it opened my eyes. When we arrived there we were shocked at all these people that were standing there for what they believed in just like us. Everyone out there came for the same reason which was gun reform," said Leonard.

Leonard added why he decided to go to the protest as he shared his personal experience of handling armed weapons.

"What influenced me to go is that I want to go into law enforcement and I've shot multiple types of guns before. Yet, I can't let that blind me to what is going on in our country. You don't really understand the power that a weapon has until you are behind it pulling the trigger," said Leonard.

Leonard gave advice on how he feels on senseless gun violence about how the public can come together to standing for what they believe in.

"You see these constant headlines of people who have been murdered due to gun violence; it's just wrong, and the least we as humans can do is work together to get some type of reform," said Leonard.

There were at least 800 rallies that were held in different states across the country, according to CBS News. Most of them were led by high school students and done to encourage government officials to implement gun law reform.

Leonard, as an attendee to one of these marches, gives some perspective of these protestors and an explanation of the march's purpose.

"People that have and people that have never shot a gun were in attendance as well. What's important to remember is that we're not trying to change or get rid of the entire Second Amendment. All we are saying is that a little reform will not hurt anyone. We were out there being the voice of the 17 people killed in the Parkland shooting, and various other shootings in the United States. We were one people, fighting, and honoring the students that lost their lives and hopefully preventing more," said Leonard.

There were thousands of individuals across the country who protested and not simply in honor of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas students but also other mass shootings, such as Columbine High school shooting, with some survivors of the Columbine Shooting attending a protest in Denver.

Frank Orlando, an instructor of political science at Saint Leo University, elaborates on youth voters and their impact on gun reform.

"I think the protests are showcasing a very energized electorate, but I'm still not sure how well that energy will translate to votes, particularly in the midterm elections. Will younger voters actually come out this November? I think we have to see it to believe it. As the issue starts to fade into the background, will people carry that intensity into November? It's tough to maintain that while the issue loses salience," Orlando.

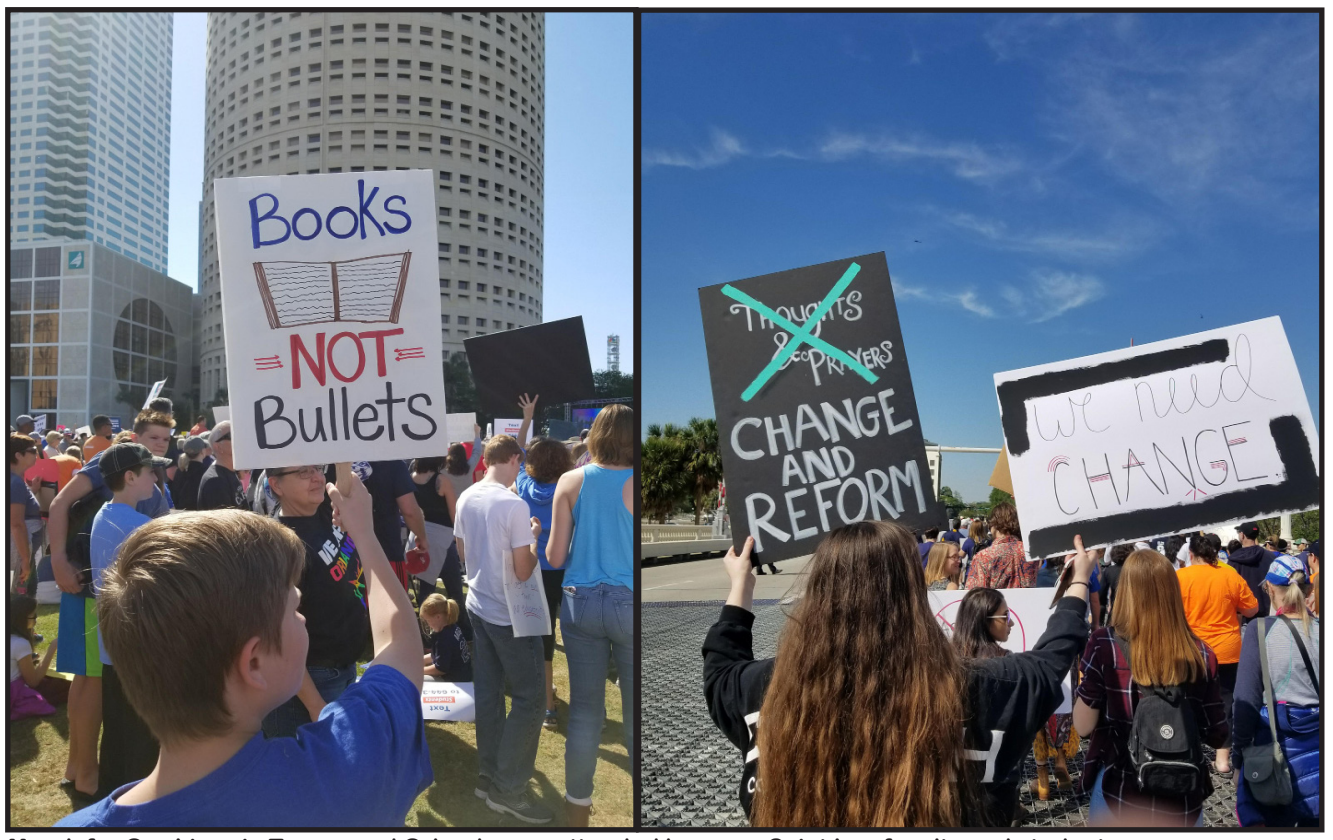
On the same day as March for Our Lives rallies, there were counter-protests. On March 24, 2018, pro-gun activists held protests as well to counter the demonstrations for stricter gun laws. Orlando compares the voting habits of pro-gun activists with those seeking stricter gun laws.

"On the other hand, pro-gun voters are much more reliable and tend to [be] more willing to vote on that one issue. This makes it more difficult for those hoping to implement stricter gun laws to convince politicians to side with them," said Orlando.

Students were not the only ones who were in the forefront when protesting for stricter gun laws; teachers were leading protests even before March for Our Lives were held. According to The New York Times, on Feb. 26, 2018, teachers in Tallahassee, Florida, gathered to protest Trump's suggestion on arming teachers to help protect schools from gun violence. The teachers did march with other students and adults who desired to protest about the active gun violence that was occurring in the country. According to New York Daily News, teachers expressed how they do not believe that arming themselves would be good safety tactics for the students in their classroom. The teachers collectively disagreed with President Trump's new law that he suggested.

On Feb. 23, 2018, Governor Rick Scott spoke in Tallahassee about the mass shooting at Stoneman Douglas and legislation. In particular, he said to the families who had lost loved ones:

"To the families of all the victims, including Tony Montalvo, the father of Gina, and Gena Hoyer, the mother



Photos taken by Wakens Leonard

March for Our Lives in Tampa and Orlando was attended by some Saint Leo faculty and students.

National

of Luke, who is also with us today - I know there is nothing we could ever do to ease your pain. But know that through the passage of this legislation, the state of Florida will forever honor the incredible impact your loved ones have had on our state. They will never be forgotten."

The House Representatives ignored the National Rifle Association, which oppose the active legislation firearm restrictions for Florida, when they passed new gun law reforms. Florida's new gun control and safety bill, which is titled "Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act," was passed by the Florida Senate March 5 with a 20 to 18 vote and by the House of Representatives March 7 with a 67-50 vote. Governor Rick Scott signed the bill into law Friday, March 9, 2018.

In the midst of a nationwide discussion of gun reform, Leonard inspired his generation to make a difference.

"Our generation is a generation of change so we should go out there and be that change."

And the protest in Florida did just

Picture from @RJpolitics

Governor Rick Scott signed the bill that was passed by the House and Senate, following the mass shooting in Parkland.

Below are some of the provisions included in the "Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act."

• This bill requires an individual to be 21 in order to purchase a gun, which raises the minimum age for buying a rifle from 18 to 21.

• This bill creates a three-day waiting period on purchases.

• The bill allocates $99 million for increase school safety measures, such as increasing upgraded locks, bulletproof glass, steel doors, and mental detectors.

• This bill implements the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program, which allows schooling staff to undergo law-enforcements and fire-arm safety training by locally elected sheriff offices.

• This bill bans the sale and the possession of bump fire stocks

• The bill allows law enforcement to temporarily take away guns from mentally disturbed individuals under the "Baker Act."

• The bill enables law enforcement officers to petition the court to temporarily prohibit someone from possessing or purchasing firearms.

Photo taken by Wakens Leonard

March for Our Lives included hundredS of thousands of protesters nationwide.

Testicular Cancer Awareness

Shantae Whyte

Staff Writer

Picture from @OrchidCancer

April is Testicular Cancer month, and there are many outlets promoting awareness of this specific cancer to promote more males to get tested.

Testicular cancer, according to Medicinenet.com, refers to a disease that occurs when the cells become abnormal or malignant, in the testicle of the male body. No smaller than a golf ball, these two organs are contained within a sac of skin called the scrotum, which hangs beneath the base of the penis. According to LiveScience.com, the functions of the testicles include secretion of male hormones (e.g. testosterone) and the production of sperm (the male cells needed to fertilize the female egg for reproduction). According to the American Cancer Society, the testacies are made up of several different types of cells. As a result, there are several types of testicular cancer, which all fall under the following two categories: seminomas and non-seminomas. According to MedlinePlus, Seminomas are the slow-growing form of testicular cancer. Meanwhile, nonseminomas develop faster and have several subtypes including choriocarcinoma, yolk sac tumor, teratoma and more.

Although the direct cause of testicular cancer is not known, risk factors include congenital abnormalities such as kidney or penile abnormalities, undescended testicle(s), family history of testicular cancer; also the most susceptible to this disease are white males, according to the American Cancer Society.

MayoClinic.org reports that though there may be no symptoms, persons may experience pain in their lower back and groin, cancer-related fatigue, hernia, painless testicular lump, weight loss, swelling of the scrotum or swollen lymph nodes. American Cancer Society reports that in rare cases, the breast may grow as a result of the tumor. Also, the same source reveals that some Leydig cell tumors produce androgens (male sex hormones); this is more likely to affect boys by causing signs of puberty at an unusually early stage, for example, deepening of voice and growth of facial and body hair.

According to Medicinenet.com, testicular cancer is most common in 20-35-year-old men. When it comes to survivorship, the National Cancer Institute's Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) database divide the cancer into three stages: localized, regional and distant.

The localized stage means that the cancer is just in the testicle. This has a survival rate of a hopeful 99 percent. With a survival rate of 96 percent, the regional stage means that the cancer has spread to nearby tissues and lymph nodes. The final stage, distant, refers to when the cancer has spread to organs or lymph nodes away from the tumor; this stage has a survival rate of 73 percent.

According to Cancer.net, for unknown reasons, the cases of testicular cancer has increased significantly over the past four years. However, the death rate continues to slowly decline. Persons die from this disease because the cancer has spread greatly, it was not effectively treated or complications were during treatment.

Recently, treatment methods for testicular cancer have been making a lot of progress. Doctors are more educated on the best ways to treat the different types of testicular cancer and even surgical methods have been refined, according to the American Cancer Society.

The types of treatment you receive depend upon your stage, they include chemotherapy, high-dose chemotherapy along with stem cell transplant, surgery (radical inguinal orchiectomy) and radiation therapy.

Arts & Entertainment

"Roseanne" Reunited

Keva N. Lockhart
Contributing Writer

When the sound of the fine-tuned harmonica was heard with a hearty laugh at the end of the theme song, it was sure that one of the most popular sitcoms was about to commence. "Roseanne" is an American sitcom that originally aired on ABC Oct. 18, 1988, and ran until March 20, 1997. However, after 21 years, the Conners are back! The iconic cast was reunited and sitcom aired on ABC March 27, 2018, with two back to back episodes. "Roseanne" is a comedy that allows viewers to relate to all aspects of life, honesty and the reality of being broke.

The final season ended in 1997 when it had collapsed into chaos. The Conners won millions on the state lottery, however, in the last episode, Roseanne had to cope with the death of her husband Dan, who supposedly died from a heart attack. Consequently, the reboot of "Roseanne" took an interesting plot twist when the sitcom began with Roseanne saying, "Dan, I thought you were dead!" The final episode was reconnected as both a dream and a story by Roseanne, specifically of Dan's death.

This humor was intended for old fans who had seen the last episode of "Roseanne" to captivate their attention and make them feel nostalgic. Overall, the themes in the reboot sitcom were the messages of acceptance, because most things can be fixed with a conversation and a hug in addition to love, which trumps all, including politics, age, race and sexual orientation.

In the "Roseanne" reboot, the family was introduced at war like never before. Since the sitcom had been off-air for 21 years, the new season covered aspects of situations that occurred in America since that time, primarily the 2016 elections. Roseanne and Dan had voted Trump because he promised jobs. However, as the sitcom progresses, the Conners' lives stay lukewarm under the Trump administration.

Darlene has returned home because she's divorced and unemployed. Becky is so desperate for money that she's attempting to become a surrogate. Becky returns as a widow, and she struggles to make ends meet. It's evident that the Conners went from being broke to being really broke, but it's also evident that nothing much has changed. A recurring theme in "Roseanne" is age. Generally, individuals would have a time frame for their lives and when they would like to attain certain goals. However, the Conner family experiences despair when life goals are not met.

Darlene's dream was to become a writer; however, her goals have not been met. She aspired to buy a colossal home and be able to enjoy the rest of her life. Dan and Roseanne are getting older, they have lost a few pounds, and they are on medication. Ultimately, they are ecstatic about celebrating their 45th wedding anniversary. Unfortunately, they're still penny-pinching and maxing their credit cards to make ends meet.

The theme of gender was seen when Mark, Darlene's son, made a preference to wear pink leggings and nail polish as opposed to t-shirts and cargo shorts. Roseanne and Dan had the difficult position of having to accept their grandson, they had to trust him to be comfortable in his skin and accept his identity.

The theme of ethnicity was portrayed when D.J was introduced as being in an interracial marriage with a woman named Geena. This was a plot twist that the audience probably didn't see coming because in previous episodes, Geena was the girl from school that DJ refused to kiss in a school play because of her melanin color.

Overall, the "Roseanne" reboot returned with more drama and focused on aspects that are prominent in the world today. It's a down-to-earth sitcom that depicts diversity in one's life.

Television Season Premiere Rating:

5 out of 5 Paws

Photo by @parentmagazine

Roseanne exemplifies love and acceptance as she embraces her grandson who chooses to express himself through a more feminie style of dress than other boys his age.

Photo by @Flashblogworld

The Conner family shared many laughs in this reunion episode.

Photo by @Freedomologit

Roseanne and Dan are reunited and in discussion about their anniversary plans.

Arts & Entertainment

Playing in the Fast Lane, "Ready Player One"

John Hall
Layout Editor

As summer is steadily approaching, the box office is heating up with myriad movies with enthralling soundtracks and even more compelling plots. "Ready Player One" is one of many of the films leading up to summer and it aims to please.

The film stars Tye Sheridan ("X-Men Apocalypse" (2016)) as the main protagonist Wade Watts/Parzival, a young man in a dystopian Planet Earth that have thrown themselves into a virtual reality world called the Oasis. The movie is adapted from the book of the same name written by Ernest Cline, published in 2011. Sheridan is complimented onscreen by Olivia Cooke ("Katie Says Goodbye" (2016) and "Ouija" (2014)) who plays the role of Artemis (Art3mis). Cookes' performance shines as a strong female lead as she is intelligent, independent and commands attention whenever she is on screen.

The primary antagonists are Ben Mendelsohn ("Star Wars: Rogue One") who portrays Nolan Sorrento, a corporate figure who tries to gain control over the Oasis for his selfish gains, along with his mercenary partner T.J. Miller ("Deadpool") who portrays i-Rok. The duo provides slight comic relief as they parallel many villains or antiheroes in Saturday morning specials who are bumbling and maniacal.

The dystopian world revealed in this plot revolves around the current, real-world crisis of climate change in tandem with the economic instability of societies and the resultant overpopulation. The harsh realities drive the world to exist in a virtual reality simulation where they can be anyone and do anything. The drive to become more than they are is due to the generation of the time being called "the missing." The character Wade Watts explains that they are referred to as the missing because there was nowhere for them to go. All interactions take place virtually, with persons rarely meeting in real-life. The interactions are experienced physically by players with the use of haptic feedback suits and accessories, some more real and costly than others.

Photo by @IGN

Millennials are more inclined to feed off the energy of the movie as the it hints at several hot-button topics important to them while utilizing nostalgia to create a new world.

The plot is driven by the hunt for an "Easter Egg," a proverbial key to owning the Oasis and the inheritance from the game maker James Halliday portrayed by Mark Rylance ("The BFG" and "Dunkirk" (2017)). Rylance is marvelous on screen, as he plays the role of the eccentric, yet introverted scientist flawlessly. Given the plots' premise of a race, audiences are entreated to a fast-paced and action pack montage on screen at almost every turn, which is supplemented by equally satisfying moments of exposition and character development.

One of the reasons for the success of "Ready Player One" at the box office within its first weekend is hinged to its heavy play on the nostalgia of its viewers. The movie employs the incorporation of characters, sounds and myriad other totems from movies and television shows from the 1980s. Several characters dawn the screen subtly such as Harley Quinn, The Iron Giant and Chucky with the majority appearing as avatars for real persons, while a small fraction act as special characters giving aide in times of distress. Similarly, the light cycle from "Tron," The Delorian from "Back to the Future" and the referenced Millennium Falcon from "Star Wars" served as alternative modes of transportation for persons within the Oasis.

The cinematography is stunning as the director Stephen Spielberg and cinematographer Janusz Kaminski have taken several liberties to provide a fully immersive environment. The duo is not new to the collaborations as they have worked on several projects together including but not limited to "Saving Private Ryan," "Amistad" and "Schindler's List."

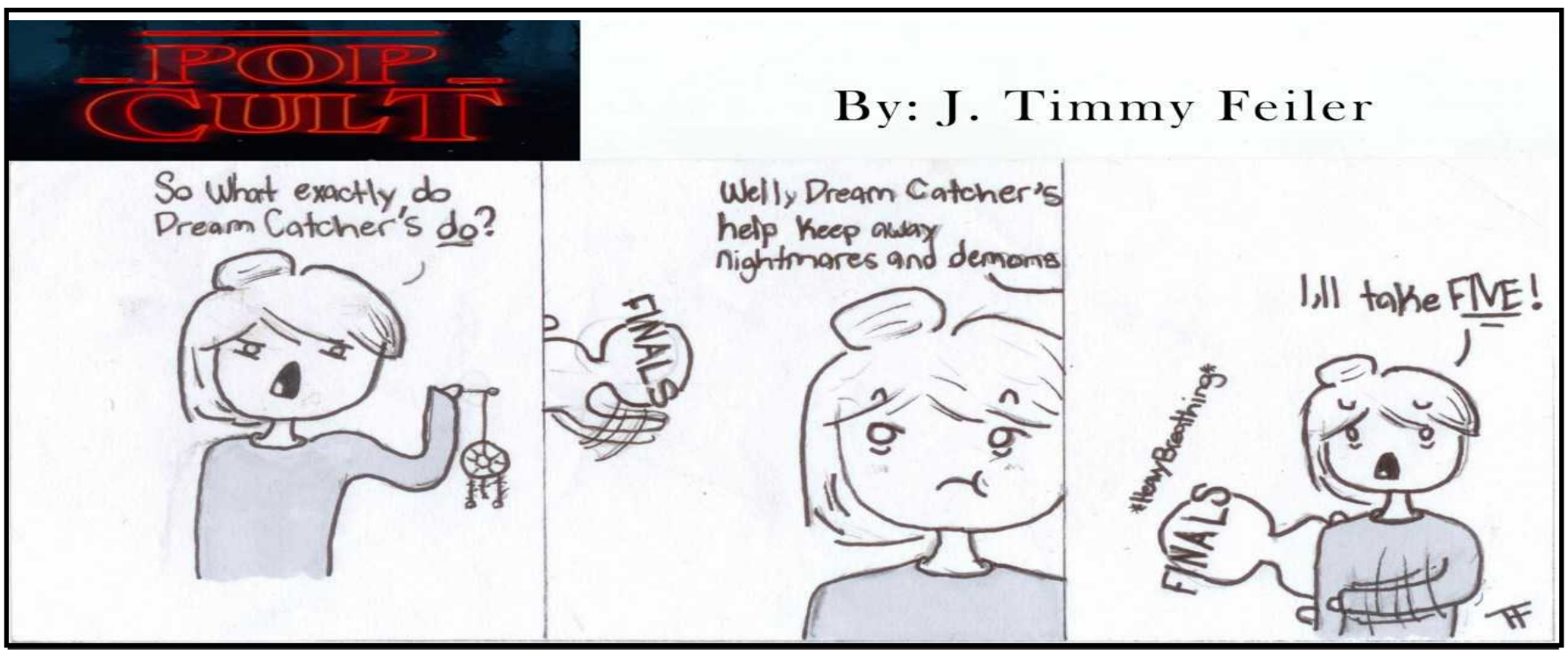
Another reason the film works well and should resonate with audiences is the fact that Steven Spielberg stuck close to the archetypes from the novel. These archetypes, while common, were fleshed out in a way that reminds audiences of better and simpler times, where plots were driven and motivated by characters with a value. These simple archetypes such as the hero, mentor shapeshifter, allies and tricksters present themselves in "Ready Player One" in a way that solicits strong buy-in from moviegoers.

The score was produced by Alan Silvestri who is known for his work with the "Back to the Future" trilogy, "Lilo and Stitch" and the upcoming "Avengers: Infinity War" film. Strategically, the combination of Spielberg, Silvestri and Kaminski provided more clout to the films' reception. The rare component in this movie is the seamless migration from paper to the silver screen with this adaptation increasing the worth of this franchise in gold.

Overall, "Ready Player One" provides a taste of every millennials dream, as the influence from the decades teems in every scene of this film. Critics have accepted the film and have given positive views with movie aggregates Rotten Tomatoes certifying the film fresh with a 76 percent critic score and 80 percent audience score as of April 3, 2018. The effective use of imagery coupled with a 1970s-2000s influenced soundtrack and tons of pop culture references takes audiences on a ride that won't soon be forgotten.

Film Rating:

4.5 out of 5 Paws



Sports

NCAA Women's Basketball Beats the Buzzer

By Vincent Pensabene
Sports Editor

There is something about a big game that makes certain players excel, Notre Dame junior Arike Ogunbowale is one of them. She helped the Fighting Irish beat the odds and eliminate UConn, one of the greatest college basketball programs, with a jump shot to help punch Notre Dame's ticket into the 'big dance' against Mississippi State.

The NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament has been filled with drama as both Final Four games went into overtime. The championship match-up almost had the same fate, as the game was even at 58 until Ogunbowale spun toward the baseline, dribbled twice and launched a shot off one leg when she ended up hitting a three-pointer off an inbounds play at the buzzer to give Notre Dame the national title. Ogunbowale was named the Most Outstanding Player and finished 6-for-21 shooting while scoring 18 points, nothing bigger than those three that broke the tie. Forward Jessica Shepard managed to put up a team-high of 19 points.

This was Notre Dame's second championship in women's college basketball, their first happening 17 years ago to the day in 2001.

Photo courtesy of: @ABC

Arike Ogunbowale has now put in her name in the history books after hitting back-to-back buzzer beating shots in the Final Four and the National Championship games.

"To [hit a game winner] twice in one weekend, the biggest stage in college basketball, it's crazy," Ogunbowale said immediately after the game.

The original plan on the inbound play was not to even go to Ogunbowale. "Because Jess [Shepard] was playing so well and McCowan had fouled out, we definitely thought we had an advantage in there," Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw said about going through Shepard instead of Ogunbowale. "Plus, they had a foul to give, I thought. So we didn't want to do anything that was going away from the basket… Arike hadn't been shooting the ball particularly well. Jess was."

The tournament as a whole was good to Ogunbowale as she broke the record for most points scored in a single NCAA tournament after finishing with 145 points, passing Notre Dame alumni Ruth Riley

Mississippi State had early control of the game, have a 30-17 lead at halftime. However, Notre Dame manage to tie the game with a 24-11 run in the third quarter to tie the game up at 41 apiece.

The season was one that many analysts wrote off for the Fighting Irish as four players suffered an ACL tear throughout the season and the roster was down to six players. This team will come back next season, only losing two players to graduation, and will be full strength to defend their national championship against all challengers.

The performances of the Final Four in the women's tournament can be the boost that women's sports as a whole needed with the attention that the final three games of the tournament garnished. The view that women sports do not draw can now be changed after all the media and fanfare that was brought to the host city of Columbus, Ohio and sports can be viewed more equal, regardless of the gender differences.

Villanova Continues Reign of Dominance

By Collin Moran
Digital Sports Editor

There is a lot of debate in men's college basketball about who the best program in the country is, and after the Championship game April 2, many will think of Villanova University. After a big win against the Michigan Wolverines in the title game, the Wildcats now have two championships in the last three years.

Unfortunately for viewers, the championship game was not anywhere near as jaw-dropping as the women's game from the night before when Notre Dame defeated Mississippi State on a last second buzzer beater. The men's championship was more of a blowout in many ways. While the final score of 79-62 doesn't necessarily seem like a "blowout," the game didn't even seem like it was that close.

Villanova led by the score of 37-28 at halftime and continued to outplay the lower-seeded Michigan squad in a second half where the game never even got close. The final 10 minutes of the game was fairly uneventful for the Wolverines as star-forward Moritz Wagner ran into foul trouble and the team couldn't find their shot. Michigan was a horrendous 3-23 from three-point range on the night, and only made 61 percent of their free throws.

Most experts expected Villanova to get the easy victory over a less experienced Michigan team, and all went to plan as the 30-9 run by the Wildcats in the middle of the game seemed to seal the victory pretty early. It wasn't the most exciting game to watch, as Villanova played smart and limited the opposition's chances throughout the entire contest.

Photo courtesy of: @NovaAthletics

Jalen Brunson (1) was a major contributor in getting Villanova it's second championship in three years after being voten AP's men's college basketball player of the year.

Even on what seemed to be an off-night, the high-flying Wildcats' offense showed why they were No. 1 in the country this season. Villanova shot 47 percent from the floor, but were only successful on 10 of their 27 three-point attempts after making 18 in their Final Four matchup against the Kansas Jayhawks. Jalen Brunson, the AP men's college basketball player of the year, was actually pretty quiet in the championship game. Brunson scored a mere nine points after going 4-13 from the floor, but it was the performance of Donte DiVincenzo who really stole the show. DiVincenzo scored a game-high 31 points coming off the bench, and shot 5-7 from beyond the arc.

There are many reports that Duke will head into next season as the favorites to win the championship, but it will be tough to dethrone the current champions as the best team in the country. Villanova may be losing Brunson to the NBA draft, and they have only signed two recruits from ESPN's Top-100 list, but they should still have a very formidable roster that can compete with anyone.

Upcoming Games Week Ending 4/6/18 - 4/12/18

M/W Track
4/6- @ Embry-Riddle 3 p.m.

Baseball
4/6- vs Nova Southeastern 6 p.m.
4/7- vs Nova Southeastern 2 p.m.
4/8- vs Nova Southeastern 1 p.m.
4/10- vs Valdosta State 5 p.m.

Men's Lacrosse
4/4- @ #9 Tampa 8 p.m.
4/11- @ Florida Southern 7 p.m.

Men's Tennis
4/7- @ #13 Embry-Riddle 11 a.m.
4/11- @ Eckerd 3 p.m.

Women's Tennis
4/7- @ Embry-Riddle 11 a.m.
4/11- @ Eckerd 3 p.m.

Men's Golf
Argonaut Invitational 4/2, 4/3 (Pensacola, FL)

Softball
4/6- @ Barry 7 p.m.
4/7- @ Barry (DH) 1 p.m./3 p.m.